

Common shiner

Luxilus cornutus



Similar Species: Many other minnows and some suckers

Identification: Silvery with dusky dorsal stripe, no dark lateral band, large eyes, barbels absent, loose diamond-shaped scales.

Common shiners are found in most of the Great Lakes drainage and lower Missouri and upper Mississippi river basins. They are common in small to medium-sized streams with clear, cool water with moderate to swift current and gravel to rubble bottom. In South Dakota they may occur in warmer, more turbid waters. Common shiners feed primarily on aquatic and terrestrial insects, small crustaceans, and plant material. Often the male will build a spawning pit in the gravel in which the female lays eggs. Many males may occupy a nest, which often results in frequent fights. Common shiners can reach lengths of 8 inches, with males larger than females.

